

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 DHA-05 /089 W
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FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5615
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO

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E O 11652: NA
TAGS: PGOV US GW UR BQG
SUBJ: MINISTER PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE IN BERLIN UNEVENTFUL; EAST
COMPLAINS ANYWAY

REF: (A) STATE 246479, (B) BONN 16944

SUMMARY: THE MEETING OF THE LAENDER MINISTER PRESIDENTS IN
WEST BERLIN CAME OFF UNEVENTFULLY. NONETHELESS, PRAVDA,
IZVESTIYA AND NEUES DEUTSCHLAND PUBLISHED CRITICAL COMMENTARIES
ON THE MEETING, THE CONTENTS OF WHICH PARALLELED THE EARLIER
FORMAL SOVIET PROTEST MADE IN CAPITALS (REFTELS). GDR DEPUTY
VISITS COMMISSIONER MUELLER ALSO RAISED SUBJECT WITH SENAT
VISITS COMMISSIONER KUNZE. EAST BLOC OBJECTIONS ARE ENTIRELY
WITHOUT LEGAL BASIS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTER PRESIDENTS OF THE WEST GERMAN
LAENDER IN WEST BERLIN OCTOBER 26-28 CAME OFF IN AN UNSPECTACULAR
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FASHION AND, AS EXPECTED, DID NOT DEAL WITH ANY ISSUES OF
INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE. AGREEMENTS
REACHED BY THE LAND REPRESENTATIVES INCLUDED RECOMMENDA-
TIONS FOR: (A) INCREASING THE TELEVISION VIEWER FEE FROM
DM 10.50 TO DM 13., (B) THE ELIMINATION OF NUMEROUS
CLAUSUS RESTRICTIONS IN SOME DEPARTMENTS AT WEST GERMAN AND WEST
BERLIN UNIVERSITIES; AND (C) PLANS TO COORDINATE MORE CLOSELY TO

FIGHT UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG GERMAN YOUTH. SUBJECT OF NATIONAL STIFTUNG NEVER AROSE.

2. DESPITE NON-PROVOCATIVE NATURE OF DISCUSSIONS, PRAVDA, IZVESTIYA AND NEUES DEUTSCHLAND PUBLISHED CRITICAL COMMENTARIES ON THE CONFERENCE ON OCTOBER 28 AND NOVEMBER

1. ADN DISPATCH REPORTING IZVESTIYA AND PRAVDA PIECES ALSO CARRIED BY EAST GERMAN BERLINER ZEITUNG OCTOBER 31. BOTH SOVIET PAPERS AND NEUES DEUTSCHLAND MADE ESSENTIALLY THE SAME CHARGES AS WERE RAISED IN THE FORMAL SOVIET PROTEST DELIVERED IN CAPITALS. (REFTELS) ALL THREE REPEATED STANDARD SOVIET LINE THAT WEST BERLIN IS NOT A PART OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC AND IS NOT TO BE GOVERNED BY IT. EACH DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY CHARGED THAT THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTER PRESIDENTS IS "AN OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE FRG" AND AS SUCH IS NOT PERMITTED TO MEET IN WEST BERLIN. FOR EXAMPLE, NEUES DEUTSCHLAND COMPLAINED THAT "SUCH A DEMONSTRATIVE CONFERENCE HELD OUTSIDE OF THE FRG, IN WEST BERLIN, IS IN GRAVE CONTRAST TO THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT OF SEPTEMBER 3, 1971." IZVESTIYA ALSO CRITICIZED THE "POLITICALLY DEMONSTRATIVE AND PROVOCATIVE CHARACTER" OF THE MEETING OF THIS "OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE FRG" IN WEST BERLIN. PRAVDA ASKED WHETHER "CERTAIN GENTLEMEN ON THE RHEIN AND IN WEST BERLIN" UNDERSTAND THAT "THE ESCALATION OF UNFOUNDED AMBITIONS OF THE FRG WITH RESPECT TO WEST BERLIN ENDANGER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DETENTE AND UNDERMINE THE QA WHICH FORMS THE BASIS FOR NORMAL LIFE FOR THE CITY AND ITS POPULATION." NEUES DEUTSCHLAND ECHOED THIS LINE.

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3. AT MEETING OF SENAT AND GDR VISITS COMMISSIONERS
OCTOBER 31, GDR DEPUTY VISITS COMMISSIONER MUELLER COMPLAINED TO SENAT VISITS COMMISSIONER KUNZE ABOUT CONFERENCE OF MINISTER PRESIDENTS IN WEST BERLIN. MUELLER CHARGED THAT IT WAS UNMISTAKABLY CLEAR THAT BY PERMITTING THE MEETING TO BE HELD, AN ILLEGAL POSITION HAD BEEN ADOPTED AND PUT INTO PRACTICE, THE PURPOSE OF WHICH WAS TO TREAT WEST BERLIN AS A LAND OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. MUELLER FURTHER CHARGED THAT THE FACT THAT GOVERNING MAYOR STOBBE HAS ASSUMED FOR ONE YEAR THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE MINISTER PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE WAS PROOF THAT AN EFFORT WAS BEING MADE TO INCORPORATE BERLIN (WEST) INTO THE STATE AND LEGAL SYSTEM OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. MUELLER WAS CAREFUL NOT TO LET HIS PRESENTATION APPEAR AS A GDR PROTEST, RATHER HE FORMULATED IT IN TERMS OF OFFERING SUPPORT TO PREVIOUSLY MADE SOVIET COMPLAINTS THAT THE MEETING OF THE MINISTER PRESIDENTS WAS CONTRARY TO THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT. KUNZE OBSERVED TO MUELLER THAT THE GDR STATE-

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MENT ONLY SUPPORTED THE POSITION OF THE SOVIET UNION AND DID NOT REPRESENT A CLAIM AS IN PREVIOUS CASES THAT GDR HAD A RIGHT TO INTERPRET THE QA ON ITS OWN. KUNZE OBSERVED THAT, WHILE THE FORM OF THE GDR PRESENTATION WAS MORE ACCEPTABLE, IT IN NO WAY INCREASED THE LEGITIMACY OF ITS CONTENT.

4. WEST BERLIN PRESS, PARTICULARLY CONSERVATIVE DIE WELT, HAS GIVEN MODERATE COVERAGE TO SOVIET AND EAST GERMAN COMPLAINTS. DIE WELT CONCLUDES ON THE BASIS OF THE PRAVDA AND IZVESTIYA ARTICLES AND A RECENT PIECE IN THE SOVIET PUBLICATION NEW TIMES WHICH CHALLENGES WEST BERLIN PARTICIPATION IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, THAT THE SOVIETS ARE MOUNTING A NEW CAMPAIGN AGAINST WEST BERLIN.

5. COMMENT: SUBSTANCE OF COMPLAINTS RAISED BY IZVESTIYA, PRAVDA, NEUES DEUTSCHLAND, ET AL HAVE NO MORE LEGITI-

MACY THAN POINTS MADE IN FORMAL SOVIET STATEMENTS IN CAPITALS. AS HAS BEEN NOTED MANY TIMES, THE CONFERENCE OF WEST GERMAN LAENDER MINISTER PRESIDENT IS NOT RPT NOT A STATE ORGAN (CONSTITUTIONAL BODY) OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC; IT IS A CONSULTATIVE BODY OF THE INDIVIDUAL STATES DESIGNED TO IMPROVE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE LAENDER IN THOSE AREAS WHERE THE FRG BASIC LAW BESTOWS COMPETENCE ON THE INDIVIDUAL LAND GOVERNMENTS, EG. EDUCATION, CULTURE, AND SPORTS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT CONCLUSION AND DECISIONS REACHED BY THE MINISTER PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE ARE RECOMMENDATORY IN CHARACTER. IT SHOULD BE NOTED FOR EXAMPLE, THAT AN EXISTING UNDERTAKING AMONG THE VARIOUS WEST GERMAN LAENDER TO ACCEPT REFUGEES ON A PROPORTIONAL BASIS HAS BEEN REPEATEDLY NOT, RPT NOT, FOLLOWED BY BADEN-WURTTEMBERG, BAVARIA AND LOWER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SAXONY. AS MINISTER PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE HAS NO ENFORCEMENT POWERS, THE ONLY SANCTIONS WHICH CAN BE TAKEN AGAINST LAENDER WHICH FAIL TO LIVE UP TO THEIR UNDERTAKINGS ARE MORAL OR POLITICAL IN NATURE AND NOT LEGAL OR CONSTITUTIONAL.

5. AS ADDRESSEES ARE ALSO AWARE, WEST BERLIN HAS BEEN REPRESENTED IN THE LAENDER MINISTER PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE AS IT HAS IN OTHER LAENDER MINISTERS CONFERENCES SINCE THE FOUNDING OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. BERLIN SENATORS AND WEST BERLIN'S GOVERNING MAYOR HAVE REPEATEDLY SERVED AS CHAIRMEN OF THESE CONFERENCE BOTH PRIOR TO AND FOLLOWING THE SIGNING OF THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT. THE ASSOCIATION OF WEST BERLIN WITH THE LAENDER OF THE FRG THROUGH THE MINISTER PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE AND OTHER LAENDER MINISTERS CONFERENCES REPRESENTS AN IMPORTANT TIE WITH THE FRG AS DEFINED AND ACCEPTED BY THE QA.

6. THE MISSION CAN SEE NO GROUNDS, THEREFORE, FOR THE SOVIET UNION TO PROTEST THE MEETING OF THE MINISTER PRESIDENTS IN BERLIN EITHER ON THE BASIS THAT IT VIOLATES THE QA OF SEPTEMBER 1971 OR ANY OTHER AGREEMENT RELATED TO BERLIN.

7. AS FAR AS GOVERNING MAYOR STOBBE IS CONCERNED, EASTERN PUBLIC GRUMBLING ABOUT MEETING HAS NOT BEEN SUCH AS TO WARRANT REBUTTAL STATEMENT AT THIS TIME BY HIMSELF OR SENAT SPOKESMAN. HE TOLD MINISTER NOVEMBER 2 HE DOES NOT THINK STATEMENT REQUIRED NOW, ALTHOUGH IN COUPLE WEEKS OR SO HE MIGHT MAKE COMMENT TO EFFECT MEETING WAS PERFECTLY NORMAL EVENT WHICH WENT OFF SMOOTHLY AND SUCCESSFULLY FROM BERLIN POINT OF VIEW. GEORGE

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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